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ca. Aug. 1, 1958
Draft
Not sent

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for your courteous letter of July 30. Your critique of my personal communication with the American Friends Service Committee was welcome, as I am always happy to receive criticism from objective parties. I am sorry to hear, however, that you are not interested in the background of my personal communications ~~xxxxx~~. I rather thought ~~my~~ the observations in my letter to you under date of July 24 were to the point, but then, of course, I am not an objective party.

I must confess, ~~that~~ too, that I am a bit puzzled by your closing note, which mentions a "more thorough disposition of the matter" if "specific information" is not provided you. You do not ~~provide~~ offer specific information as to the nature of the more thorough disposition you have in mind. I trust that this is not a threat of any kind. If it were, I should have to readjust some ideas I have long cherished about freedom of expression.

your desire

Now, I assure you, Mr. Stewart, that ~~my wish~~ ^{greater than my own} to protect the rights of American farm workers is not ~~extended only to them~~. I am always happy to cooperate with bona fide efforts to ~~extend~~ sustain these rights and, if possible, to improve them. ~~Extending~~ It should be understood, however, that when I do so I prefer to feel that I am answering to my conscience rather than to coercion.

The only reason I felt it appropriate to dwell upon what seemed to me more basic matters in my last letter was that the specifics in which you evince such interest are not, I fear, of a type to support the thorough investigation you wish to conduct. The first citation had reference to an experience in Ontario, California, but I have no idea of the name of the clerk with whom I talked. The second citation referred to a conversation I had with a group of four men in El Centro, California. These persons identified themselves to me only as unemployed farm workers. I did not press them for their names, or for further identifying information, as I felt this would seem a strange intrusion on an informal conversation.

If it is your desire that I secure the names and addresses of all the persons I meet as I go about my business and pleasure, I shall take this under advisement, but it will seem an unnatural and unaccustomed role for me to fill. I believe there are a number of persons throughout the State who are connected professionally with domestic agricultural workers, and who are hence in an infinitely better position than I to furnish you with the types of information you seek. I have in mind persons connected with ^{such organizations as} the Migrant Ministry, Community Service Organization, Catholic Rural Life Conference, American Friends Service Committee, and various county welfare departments.

Feel free to call upon me if I can be of further assistance to you, but please bear in mind that my interests are highly specialized and my time somewhat limited.

Yours truly,